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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: Yoshiyuki NAMIZUKA

Serial No.: 10/078,713

Group No.: 2621

Filed: February 19, 2002

Examiner: Unknown

**For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VARIBLY
PROCESSING IMAGE BASED UPON IMAGE CHARACTERISTICS**

I, Iris C. Rousey certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

On March 28, 2002


Iris C. Rousey

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please make the following change prior to examination of the above-referenced application:

In the Specification:

Please enter the following amended specification of the paragraph on page 6, lines 13-

31 of the original specification:

A gradation unit 26 converts the intensity data of one pixel into area gradation data according to an outputting characteristic. The conversion includes simple multiple values, binarization, dithering, error diffusion and phase control. To convert to the area degradation data, quantization thresholds are distributed in a predetermined area. To distribute the thresholds, predetermined values are downloaded into a matrix RAM 26A,

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